

Commission on Children and Youth
Draft Meeting Summary
November 18, 2015

Members Present: Dana Bell, Shari Argue, Gina Brown, Ethan Chen Adraine Clutter, Cecily Dardin-Adams, Tom Grazio, Stuart Grossman, Lindsay Hoffman, Nancy Kaplan, Nora Ludden, Elizabeth McGlynn, Dr. Angela Mickalide, Howard Nicholson, Tamara Niedomanski, Gina Polley, and Bobbi Sherman.

Members Absent: Carson Henry, Sareanna Kimia, Roberta Rinker, and Beka Urgessa.

Staff Present: Dr. Barbara Andrews and Marva Younger

Planning for Youth Voice Roundtable – Stuart Grossman, Bobbi Sherman and Howard Nicholson 6:00pm -7:00pm -- Stuart Grossman met with the youth group to prepare for session on Youth Having a Voice Roundtable. Stuart provided a handout identifying key points for leading group discussions, such as:

- Ensure everyone is introduced
- Respect each other and their viewpoints
- Talk one at a time
- Make everyone feel comfortable and watch body language
- Repeat and rephrase for clarity
- Refocus topic if group goes astray on unrelated topic

The youth group brainstormed several questions for discussion related to the 2015-2016 priorities on (1) homeless youth in Montgomery County and (2) My Brother's Keeper and opportunity youth.

Dana Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Introduction of members and welcome to new members

ACTION ITEMS:

Reading and Approval of the October Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved with the correction of misspelled word -- "homeliness" to "homelessness".

Sub-Committee Sign up

Dana asked members to sign up to serve on one of the sub- committees:

Homeless Youth in Montgomery County Sub-Committee:

1. Gina Brown -- Chair

2. Lindsay Hoffman – Chair/Notetaker
3. Ethan Chen – Co-Chair
4. Tom Grazio
5. Elizabeth McGlynn
6. Tamara Niedomanski
7. Nancy Kaplan
8. Roberta Rinker
9. Shari Argue
10. Angela Mickalide

My Brother's Keeper and Opportunity Youth Sub-Committee:

1. Cecily Dardin-Adams -- Chair
2. Bobbi Sherman – Co-Chair
3. Gina Polley -- Notetaker
4. Adraine Clutter
5. Stuart Grossman
6. Carson Henry
7. Nora Ludden
8. Howard Nicholson

Sub-Committee Reports

Homeless Youth in Montgomery County – each member will research and gather data from various organizations (government, schools, community organizations, houses of worship) to better understand the homeless problems. They will research what services are offered for homeless youth; what are the root causes of homeless youth; how youth stay connected -- social media and/or phones; what gaps can be identified in the services; and what recommendations can be made by committee.

The following members agreed to gather data from various organizations:

Elizabeth McGlynn --Collaboration Council
 Gina Brown – Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless
 Angela Mickalide – Friends of the AIM Campaign
 Shari Argue – Lourie Center Early Head Start
 Tami Niedomanski – Montgomery County Public Schools
 Ethan Chen – Greentree Adolescent for NCCF
 Lindsay Hoffman – Department of Health, Montgomery County

My Brother's Keeper and Opportunity Youth Sub-Committee – the committee felt this priority to be very broad and additional time is needed to research the subject matter in order to determine what action items to be addressed. Adriane Clutter will send committee members a report (Connecting Youth to Opportunities -- How Black and Asian Americans Youth Perspective can Inform a Blueprint for Improving Opportunities in Montgomery County). This report will be a start identifying what elements may be workable and engaging to students for the committee to make recommendations.

Voice Roundtable

Barbara has sent ***“save the date”*** notices. A number of county officials and organizations are invited to Youth Voice Roundtable and asked to send up to 4 youth to participate.

Each adult member of the commission is asked to bring a gift card in the amount of \$10. Adriane suggested purchasing gift cards that offer healthy meals.

Dana opened the floor for members to share upcoming events or activities in their organizations.

Nancy Kaplan – goal is to collect 161 gift cards to help with Thanksgiving meals for the needy.

Angela Mickalide – Action for Child First and Housing will address the achievement gap for students and providing housing for all at St. Camillus Church on December 9th at 7:00pm.

Adriane Clutter – parade in Silver Spring on Saturday.

Tom Grazio – Wine tasting and sale -- \$20 for 6 servings. Proceeds go to treehouse. For additional information – www.treehousemd.org

Nora Ludden – Arena Stage featuring Akeelah and the Bee – admission is “pay your age”.

Shari Argue – Food security and nutritious eating habits recommended by the Integration Alliance Programs.

Bobbi Sherman – collecting water bottle tops at her school (she was not sure why). She also informed members about a social media app called “brighten” that sends compliments to someone (for example, you look cute or looking good today, etc).

Ethan Chen – served on a panel discussing the Syria refugee issue and the Paris attack.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.